

develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Spencer Stapp for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

#### A TRIBUTE TO SANDRA R. MARTIN

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Sandra R. Martin.

Born to Rita and Theodore P. Martin, Ms. Martin is one of seven children. She grew up in a very loving and nurturing environment and was spiritually fortified at St. Charles Borromeo R.C. Church. Ms. Martin was born and raised in Harlem and attended New York City Public Schools throughout her formative educational years. She spent her high school years working as a Senior Counselor at St. Ambrose Community Center, a Unit Clerk Assistant at Cabrini Health Care Center and a teacher's assistant at Chama Child Development Center, where she worked with special needs children.

Upon graduation from Mabel Dean Bacon Vocational High School, Ms. Martin enrolled at Long Island University, C.W. Post College. She majored in Criminal Justice and minored in Sociology; she was also a charter member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Zeta Kappa Chapter. Due to her academic success, she earned placement on the Dean's List, received the Presidential Merit Award, and garnered multiple graduate studies scholarships. Upon completion of her studies at LIU, Ms. Martin was employed at Downstate Medical Center as the Night Administrator then as the Assistant Director of Operations.

Ms. Martin had a long career in Criminal Justice. She started as a Case Manager, preparing cases for alternatives to incarceration. She later served as an investigator for the Department of Buildings, conducting surveillances to monitor City employees and contractors. For the next 20 years, Ms. Martin served as a member of the New York City Department of Correction. During her academy training, she was one of two officers selected as company leader for her squad. While the inmate population proved to be difficult and unyielding, she was able to work effectively with inmates by utilizing her problem solving and human relations skills to subjugate potentially violent situations. Her diligence, professionalism and interpersonal skills earned recognition from the department's institutional division and gang intelligence unit. Ms. Martin was promoted to Captain in 2001, and provided supervision to a staff of 25 officers; she eventually empowered five officers to take promotional exams and become captains themselves. Ms. Martin was respected by her peers, higher ranking officers and the inmate population, who often sought her advice.

Ms. Martin recently retired from the New York City Department of Correction. Now she likes to work behind the scenes without fanfare. Ms. Martin is tireless in her efforts to assist those in need. She thanks God for all

blessings bestowed upon her and looks forward to continued service to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Sandra R. Martin.

#### HONORING JOHN VAN GELS

### HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2011*

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Van Gels of Boeing Defense, Space & Security. John will be retiring this month after nearly 50 years serving in various positions in the aerospace and defense industry in St. Louis and southern California.

John Van Gels is the quintessential American story. In 1963, when he first joined the McDonnell Aircraft Company in St. Louis he took a job as an hourly employee making \$2.13. Over the years he did his job, worked hard and was rewarded with increased responsibility on the shop floor—holding positions as assistant foreman, foreman, and general foreman on numerous programs.

In 1981, John exchanged his blue collar for a white one and was named Production Manager for McDonnell's Tomahawk cruise missile program. Five years later he was named the Director of Production for the Tomahawk and in 1989 was named vice president of Production Centers—Missile Company.

Most folks would consider nearly 30 years with one company a great career, but not John Van Gels. In 1990, John accepted the position of vice president of Product Center Operations at Douglas Aircraft Company in Long Beach, California. There he oversaw production of the MD-80, MD-90, MD-11 and Trunkliner programs.

In 1997, he returned to St. Louis to assume the position of VP/GM Production Operations and General Services for McDonnell Douglas Aerospace. He will finish his career as Senior Site Executive for Boeing Defense, Space & Security—responsible for the day-to-day St. Louis operations.

While his career took him from the floor to the executive office building, John never forgot his time on the floor or the value of the men and women who produce the world's most capable military and commercial aircraft. Throughout his career, John was actively involved in labor negotiations, helping more than once to bridge the gap between blue collar and white.

I've had the pleasure of meeting John on more than one occasion during my time in Congress. His knowledge and dedication to "team" have been a help to both myself and my staff. You don't "replace" a man with the knowledge, experience and character of John Van Gels, you simply adapt, move on and hope to honor his commitment to the industry he poured his professional life into.

Thank you, John. I wish you God's speed and blessing in your retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF BISHOP JOHN RICARD

### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2011*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Bishop John Ricard after 14 years of serving as Bishop of the Roman-Catholic Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

Bishop Ricard entered the priesthood in 1968. He served in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. until 1984, when he was named auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. In 1997, Bishop Ricard was named Bishop of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, holding that post until his recent retirement. The Pensacola-Tallahassee Diocese is home to 64,000 Catholics in 18 North Florida counties. As head of the Pensacola-Tallahassee diocese, Bishop Ricard led an impressive expansion of services, including a \$2.8 million Pastoral Center. These expansions increased the ability of the Catholic Church to provide outreach and charitable work throughout North Florida.

Increasing the accessibility of the Catholic Church in North Florida is a lasting achievement; however, Bishop Ricard's lasting legacy as a servant of the Lord is a result of his tireless work fighting poverty around the globe. Bishop Ricard encouraged his local parishes to increase their efforts combating hunger and poverty. Bishop Ricard, however, is not simply a man of words. He practiced what he preached. After Hurricane Ivan devastated the Northwest Florida area in 2004, Bishop Ricard helped to rebuild homes destroyed during the hurricane. Bishop Ricard also worked to ensure that working class families had the support necessary to avoid becoming victims of homelessness. He led the effort to create the Interfaith Housing Coalition, which provided affordable homes for working class families.

Bishop Ricard was also a leader in the global community. He served as president of Catholic Relief Services, an international charitable organization that delivers food, water and other essential items to the developing world. Additionally, Bishop Ricard served as head of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Office of International Justice and Peace. In these capacities, he traveled around the globe, frequently to famished and war-torn countries, to preach the gospel and help the local community build a better future.

Spiritual leaders impact their communities in numerous ways, providing spiritual and emotional guidance, as well as charitable work. Bishop Ricard's dedication to the Lord ensured that his outreach expanded far beyond the confines of his local parishes and diocese, and his legacy will endure far beyond the diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I congratulate Bishop Ricard on his retirement. My wife Vicki and I wish him all the best as he continues to walk in the light of the Lord.